

**METHODS FOR LAUNDERING DELICATE**  
**GARMENTS IN A WASHING MACHINE**

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This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Nos. 60/105,539, filed October 24, 1998, and 60/157,399, filed October 1, 1999.

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**TECHNICAL FIELD**

The present invention relates to products and processes for laundering delicate or dry-clean only garments in a conventional home washing machine.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

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By definition, the term "dry cleaning" has been used to describe processes for cleaning textiles using non-aqueous solvents. Dry cleaning is an old art with solvent cleaning first being recorded in the United Kingdom in the 1860s. Typically, dry cleaning processes are used with delicate fabrics such as wool and silk which are subject to shrinkage in aqueous laundering baths, or which are judged to be too valuable or delicate to be subjected to aqueous laundering processes. Such garments usually have a tag affixed to them either identifying the garment as "dry clean only" or providing some other appropriate laundering tocsin. For the last fifty years, the most widely-used non-aqueous solvent of choice for commercial dry-cleaning has been perchloroethylene.

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While perchloroethylene is superior to the non-aqueous solvents that it replaced, it has several disadvantages. In particular perchloroethylene has been identified as a hazardous air pollutant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and has been long associated with nervous-system and kidney disorders among industrial workers. In 1995, the Environmental Protection Agency classified perchloroethylene as a "probable human carcinogen." Perchloroethylene's potential carcinogenic effects are not limited solely to industrial workers or those who operate perchloroethylene-based dry clean processes: a recent study of commercial dry

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